



MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
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April 1, 2025

Sen. Rachel Talbot Ross, Chair
Rep. William D. Pluecker, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture Conservation and Forestry
c/o Legislative Information Office
State House Station 100
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: LD 761

Dear Sen. Ross and Rep. Pluecker:

I am writing to provide testimony in support of LD 761, *An Act to Support the Maintenance, Preservation and Promotion of State Historic Sites*.

The Bureau of Parks and Lands is the steward of some of Maine's most significant historic sites, from Fort McClary in Kittery to the West Quoddy Head Light Station in Lubec and the Fort Kent Blockhouse in Fort Kent. Its inventory includes the eighteenth-century home of Reuben Colburn in Pittston, Colonial Pemaquid in Bristol, the summer residence of Admiral Robert E. Peary on Eagle Island in Harpswell, and portions of the Katahdin Iron Works site north of Brownville.

These historic sites offer opportunities for Maine residents, as well as those who visit, to experience and learn from tangible connections to the past. However, unless these sites are maintained and repaired those opportunities will cease to exist. As an example, the Colburn House is so deteriorated that it cannot be open to the public on the 250th anniversary this fall of Arnold's March to Quebec – one of Maine's most important links to the Revolutionary War.

The state holds these historic sites in trust for the public, and it is the state's responsibility to ensure that they are cared for in a manner that will enable current and future generations to experience them. LD 761 provides a significant down-payment for the Bureau of Parks and Lands to begin the work needed to maintain, preserve and promote them.

Sincerely,

Kirk F. Mohney
Director
Maine Historic Preservation Commission